

# Rentokil, Inc.

## **EPA Region 3**

Virginia

Henrico County

Northwest of Richmond  
near I-95

**EPA ID#** VAD071040752

## **Last Update:**

August 2002

## **Other Names:**

Virginia Wood  
Preservers

## **Current Site Status**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is overseeing the long-term groundwater cleanup of the Rentokil Inc. site. Construction of the cleanup systems were completed in August, 1999. EPA, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Virginia Properties, Inc. (the potentially responsible party (PRP) and successor to Rentokil), and their contractors conducted a pre-final inspection on August 3, 1999 and determined that the systems were constructed in accordance with the remedial design plans and specifications. The remedial action includes the following components: demolition, off-site disposal of contaminated material, construction of a slurry wall, dewatering system, divider walls, monitoring wells, wetland restoration, and construction of a cap. EPA and VADEQ have accepted a proposal made by Virginia Properties, Inc. to redevelop the site after completion of the remedy. The proposal includes light industrial/commercial buildings constructed on the site with the

building foundations incorporated into the cap, a concept termed “divider walls.” Presently contaminated groundwater is pumped from the cap/slurry wall and treated at an off-site facility.

## **Site Description**

The Rentokil, Inc. site located in Henrico County, Virginia is a 10-acre former wood treating plant. Wood treating operations started in 1957 and were terminated in 1990. Since 1982, the operation used only the chromated copper arsenate process to treat wood. In previous years, pentachlorophenol (PCP), creosote, chromated copper arsenate, chromated zinc arsenate, xylene, and fire retardants in a solution of ammonium phosphates and sulfates were also used. These processes also required the plant to use mineral spirits and fuel oil in the preserving mixtures. An open earthen pit was used for the discharge of waste processing fluids from 1957 to 1963. In 1963, the earthen pit was cleared, cleaned, and replaced with a concrete holding pond under the direction of the Virginia State Water Control Board because of three fish kills in a nearby pond. In 1976 or 1977, approximately 1,100 to 1,400 pounds of chromated copper arsenate (CCA) were rendered unusable and were disposed of in a ditch on the site. In 1987, Rentokil, the PRP for the site, and EPA signed a Consent Order (CO) to determine the nature and extent of contamination and identify alternatives. The investigation determined that the groundwater, soil, and surface water are contaminated with pentachlorophenol, creosote derivatives, copper, chromium, arsenic, and dioxin from the plant operations. Approximately 1,500 people live within a one-mile radius of the site. When the site was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL), approximately 350 people used drinking water from wells drilled into the aquifers of concern. In 1987, water lines were extended to those residents living near the site.

### **Site Responsibility**


Cleanup for this site is the responsibility of the Federal government and the potentially responsible parties.

### **NPL Listing History**

This site was proposed to the National Priorities List of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites requiring long term remedial action on January 22, 1987. The site was formally added to the list March 31, 1989, making it eligible for federal cleanup funds.

# Threats and Contaminants

The groundwater and soil are contaminated with PCP, creosote derivatives, copper, chromium, arsenic, and dioxin from former wood preserving operations. Potential risks exist if individuals accidentally ingest or come in direct contact with contaminated groundwater or soil.

Contaminant descriptions and associated risk factors are available on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, an arm of the CDC, web site at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hazdat.html> 

## Cleanup Progress

In the spring of 1991, all of the wood treating equipment was removed from the site. In March 1992, Virginia Properties, Inc. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Rentokil, Inc.) and EPA entered into a Removal Consent Order to design, construct, and maintain sediment control structures to reduce further migration of sediment containing arsenic, chromium, copper, and zinc to the unnamed tributary to North Run. A final cleanup decision for the site was reached between EPA and Virginia in June 1993. In February 1994, Virginia Properties Inc. signed a Consent Decree to design and implement the remedy, which included demolition of remaining structures, excavation and off-site disposal of the unusable CCA, excavation and off-site incineration of pond sediments, construction of a cap, low temperature thermal desorption of surface soil, a slurry wall, a dewatering system (horizontal wells) within the cap/slurry wall, and restoration of three wetland areas. Based on an analysis by Virginia Properties Inc., EPA amended the cleanup decision in August 1996 to delete the low temperature thermal desorption of the surface soil.

## Contacts

On-Scene Coordinator  
Gerald Heston  
215-814-3273  
[heston.gerald@epa.gov](mailto:heston.gerald@epa.gov)

Remedial Project Manager  
Andy Palestini  
215-814-3233  
[palestini.andy@epa.gov](mailto:palestini.andy@epa.gov)

Community Involvement Coordinator  
Patrick Gaughan  
304-234-0238  
[gaughan.patrick@epa.gov](mailto:gaughan.patrick@epa.gov)

Government Liason  
Cristina Fernandez  
215-814-2178  
[fernandez.cristina@epa.gov](mailto:fernandez.cristina@epa.gov)

The detailed Administrative Record can be examined at the following locations:

Henrico County Municipal Reference and Law Library  
Parham Road at Hungary Spring Road  
Richmond, VA 23273

U.S. EPA Region III  
6th Floor Docket Room  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-814-3157